which could never be commissioned, the revamp of Namrup Unit of HFC has been approved and is under implementation. Comprehensive rehabilitation proposal in respect of the remaining units of HFC and FCI based on unitwise techno-economic viability are under Government's consideration.

Sick Fertilizer Plants

*193. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer plants that have fallen sick;

(b) the location of those plants and the reasons for their sickness;

(c) whether Government propose to revive some of those plants; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard particularly for revival of Talcher fertilizer plant in Orissa.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) The names of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Fertilizer Sector declared as sick units by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), the location of their plants and the reasons of sickness of these PSUs are given below:—

Name of the PSU	Locations of the plant	Main reasons for Losses
Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.(FCI)	Ramagundam (A.P.), Talchar (Orissa), Sindri (Bihar) & Gorakhpur (U.P.)	Technological, design and equipment deficiencies, frequent equipment breakdowns, increase in the cost of liquid petroleum products, power shortages, industrial relations problems and surplus manpower and resource constraints.

Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC)	Durgapur & Haldia Fertilizer Project (W.B.), Barauni (Bihar) & Namrup (Assam)	Technological, design and equipment deficiencies, frequent equipment breakdowns, increase in the cost of liquid petroleum products, power shortages, industrial relations problems, and surplus manpower and resource constraints.
Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL)	Dehradun (UP), Amjhore (Bihar) and Salidapura (Rajasthan)	Delays in disbursement of concession, withdrawal of the imports substitution incentives, intrinsic cost disadvantage of pyrites based sulphuric acid production, increase in operating costs of pyrites mining at Amjhore, rising costs of deep underground mining at Mussoorie and increased transportation costs.
Projects & Developments India Ltd. (PDIL)	Catalyst Unit, R&D Division, Sindri (Bihar), Engineering & Consultancy Division, Noida (Delhi), Baroda (Gujarat).	Low level of orders for catalysts and lack of job orders as the new projects envisaged at the time of formulation of the revival package got delayed.

(c) and (d) While a decision has already been taken by the Government to close/hive off the Haldia Fertilizer Project which could never be commissioned, the revamp of the Namrup Unit of

Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) has been approved. Comprehensive rehabilitation proposal based on unitwise techno-economic viability for the remaining units of both HFC and FCI including the Talcher Unit of FCI, as well as PPCL are under Government's consideration.

As regards PDIL, during the course of review of its rehabilitation scheme by BIFR approved in July 1997, BIFR directed that a revised rehabilitation scheme for PDIL be submitted for approval to the competent authority in the Government and thereafter for sanction of BIFR.

Rail Link with Bangladesh Through Petrapole-Benapole Border

*194. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any agreement with the Bangladesh Government for resumption of international rail link through the Petrapole-Benapole border in the West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railway link between Petrapole (India)—Benapole (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge for goods train services has become operational after signing of Working Agreement on 4.7.2000 by Government of India through Ministry of Railways and by Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh through Bangladesh Railways.

(c) Commercial notification has been issued by Railways for operationalising this route. Freight trains will run between Petrapole-Benapole as and when indents are received. The two countries will soon finalise the date for running the services.